

Student Name:

Date:

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INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Definition: An indefinite pronoun does not refer to any specific person, thing or amount. It is “vague” and not definite.

- It refers to the idea of all, any, none or some -- like a range of people, things or amount.
- Some indefinite pronouns are singular or plural depending on the context.
- Others are ALWAYS SINGULAR OR PLURAL.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Indefinite pronouns must agree in number and gender.

Indefinite pronouns that are singular must have a singular verb; indefinite pronouns that are plural must have a plural verb.

For example:

Everyone on the boys' basketball team has to memorize his lines by Friday. That will be a problem for one of them once he realizes that he has left his playbook on the bus.

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Indefinite Pronoun Chart

Use the following word bank to fill the tables below:

all, another, any, anybody, anyone, anything, both, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, few, little, many, more, most, much, neither, nobody, no one, none, nothing, one, other, others, several, some, somebody, someone, something, such.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS that are ALWAYS SINGULAR (20)

another	each	everything	nobody	other
anybody	either	little (less)	no one	somebody
anyone	everybody	much	nothing	someone
anything	everyone	neither	one one	something

*** what do you notice about pronouns with the suffixes one, body, thing?

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS that are ALWAYS PLURAL (5)

both	few	many	others	several
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INDEFINITE PRONOUNS that MAY BE SINGULAR OR PLURAL depending on meaning in a sentence (7)

all	more	none	such
any	most	some	

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Exercise 1 Making Indefinite Pronouns agree with Verbs.

Underline each indefinite pronoun and write S or P for singular or plural in the blank. Then underline the correct verb. Use the Indefinite Pronoun Chart to help you.

1. P All of the dogs (is, are) pure purebreds.
2. P None of the doctors (was, were) specialists.
3. P All of his paintings (is, are) displayed here. *can't count it*
4. S Most of the sauce (has, have) been spilled.
5. P Most of the nests (has, have) been deserted.
6. S Everyone at home (were, was) asleep.
7. P Several (is, are) missing from the picture.
8. S One of the men (is, are) hiding in the barn.
9. P Few (has, have) visited this shop before.
10. P Several here (is, are) experts on tax laws.
11. S Each of the pups (has, have) a new owner.
12. P Few in the group (has, have) seen koalas.
13. S Neither of the suits (fit, fits) me.
14. S Some ice cream (is, are) melted.
15. P None of the glasses (was, were) broken.
16. P Some of the proposals (is, are) ridiculous.
17. S All of the weed killer (is, are) in the tank.
18. S Some of the grass (has, have) died.
19. S Everyone in the band (is, are) playing.
20. P Both of the members (is, are) eligible.
21. S Somebody here (save, saves) coupons.
22. S Everything in the store (is, are) on sale.
23. S Someone in this office (is, are) whistling!

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Exercise 2 Making Personal Pronouns Agree with Indefinite Pronouns.

Underline the correct pronoun in each sentence.

- S 1. Each of the men raised (his, their) arms to the crowd.
- S 2. All of the paints will keep (its, their) color for years.
- P 3. Both of the boys will complete (his, their) assignments.
- P 4. Many who heard the thunder thought (he, they) would outwit the storm.
- S 5. Either of the actresses will do (her, their) best.
- S 6. Prior to living in the dormitory, each of the girls had tried living in (her, their) own apartment.
- P 7. Several of the photographs had lost (its, their) finish.
- P 8. Few of the items in the store seemed worth (its, their) price.
- S 9. If everybody rushes toward you at once, avoid (him, ^{or her} them) by stepping aside. .
- P 10. Most of the girls like (her, their) new swimming coach.
- S 11. While neither of the apples looked ripe, we had no choice but to eat (it, them).
- P 12. All of those who spoke seemed unwilling to state (his, their) honest opinions.
- S 13. Each of the boys looked out for (his, their) buddy.
- S 14. Only one of the girls had (her, their) hair cut.
- S 15. Each of the patrons wanted (his or her, their) money back when the play was canceled.

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Exercise 3 Making Personal Pronouns Agree with Indefinite Pronouns.

Write an appropriate personal pronoun to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE: Each of the Brownies has sold *her* quota of Girl Scout cookies.

1. Most of the fans brought blankets with them.
2. Most of our furniture has scratches on it.
3. Several of my classmates handed their in essays early.
4. No one on the girls' swim team wears her goggles in a meet.
5. Everyone in the Women's Club brings her own expertise to the project.
6. Few of the voters changed their minds after the debate.
7. Much of the glass has smudges on it.
8. Has anyone in Dan's Cub Scout pack decided on his project yet?
9. All of the musicians are tuning their instruments.
10. I think some of the tourists brought cameras with them.